AN HUMBLE CONFESSION. Who is that little woman there,
With laughing eyes and dark brown hair,
And physiognomy so fair?
My wife.

Who's not as meek as she appears, And doesn't believe one-half she hears, And toward me entertains no fears? My consort.

Who wakes me up on every morning, About the time the day is dawning, My protestations calmly scorning? My spouse.

Who marks my clothes with India ink, And darns my stockings quick as a wink, While I sit by and smoke and think? My frau.

Who asks me every day for money, With countenance demure and funny, And calls me "pretty boy" and "boney?"

My little woman.

Who runs this house both night and day, And over all exerts her sway; Who's boss o' this shanty, anyway? My better half!

### -Aaron Fledger.

### THE FIREMAN'S STORY.

Coal-dust, cinders, oil and smoke grimy-looking personages. Perhaps hand-brakes. tew among the thousands of passengers would care for our acquaintance. But we are useful-as useful, perhaps, as we have our full share of the hard, dis- I swung out on the step. agreeable things in life, including frequent peril and much exposure to

Working up from fireman to enginedriver-or "engineer," as we are usually called in this country-is often a slow process. There are men on our linethe Hudson River Railroad-who have been firing eleven years, with no promotion yet; though they are no doubt fully competent to run an engine. For promotion depends almost wholly upon vacancies occurring, or some special influence at head quarters.

A man ought to become thoroughly screw in mine after firing two years. Yet it takes a good deal of time to learn to fire well, so as to get the most steam out of the least fuel, and have the highest pressure at the grades where it is as the engine.

Then comes the oiling. An engine requires a great deal of oil, as well as coal and water. The fireman has to keep in mind all those scores of bearings where oil has to be applied. Beand stirring up his fire-to keep it steady and hot- and looking to his stock must needs watch sharply. But a man on the instant. gets these duties well fixed in his head

superior, the engineer, to step into the from the imprisoned passengers. cab and start off. Usually the engineer does not make his appearance till the moment of connecting with the train. Between the engineer and fireman there known cases where the two men detested each other.

When I began to fire under "Doc" Simmons, I scarcely knew enough to I cast many an anxious glance round build a good fire in a cook stove, and for Doc, hoping and half expecting that could not have found a quarter of the he had got clear and would be at work oil caps. I must have been a trial to with us, trying to get out the passenhim the first week or two. But he gers. But I saw nothing of him, and never gave me a sharp word, though by daybreak I felt sure that he had he often had to tell me things over and over again.

"Doc"-as the railway men all called knew every pound of metal in a locothere is in a locomotive the moment he not tell. takes hold of the levers and starts up. He was a good-hearted fellow and al ways had a pleasant word, or a joke, all along the line; and it is generally the case that such men do not fail the company, or the public, at a critical Youth's Companion.

I went home and cried like a baby the day "Doc" was killed. If it had been my own father, I could not have felt half as badly. I actually wished that I had gone to the bottom of the river with him. It was the night of the 6th of February, and fearfully cold. We had "No. 117" then, and took out the Pacific Express, as it was called, from New York City, up the line to Albany. It was a bitter night, and the press was always a heavy train. That night we had three baggage and express cars and eight passenger coaches; and we were late out of New York to begin with-about fifteen minutes, I think. Such cold weather is always demoralizing to a railroad. It is much flarder to make time; all metal works bad; and though the fire appears to burn brighter, it takes more coal to make steam. The train seems to hang to the line. Then, period of exhaustion. too, the cutting wind is enough to freeze the marrow in a man's bones.

It might have been mostly fancy on my part, but I thought "Doc" had an add look in his face that night, as he got into the cab. He was more serious than usual; for we both knew that we had a hard run before us, and a cold one. Both of us were muffled up in fur caps and old overcoats.

Shove in the coal, Nick, and shake her down smart. We want every ounce of steam to-night," says Doc. "Fifteen minutes behind and eleven cars on! Those sleeping coaches are as heavy as a whole block, too. I'm glad this is a double-track line and all clear ahead." Doc handled her, I knew that he meant to pick up that fifteen minutes, if it was

Wappinger Creek on a trestle-bridge which had a "draw" in it. It was a comfort to think that the draw would there would be no delay there.

haps forty, on the level stretches.

Ah, if it were only permitted to trainmen to know just what is ahead on the tracks on these black, bitter nights! shows us; and often the signals seem strangely obscure in fog, or in the driv- and four times the weight of straw, for ing rain and snow.

One of these always possible "breaks," which may not occur for years, but are yet constantly liable to happen, had occurred that night. One of the South—A Sr bound night freight trains, running some grave-stones for down to New York, broke an axle and poses.—Chicago Herald.

got one of its middle cars off the rails, before reaching the bridge. How far they dragged the car in that condition no one knows; for it was so cold that the conductor and all the brakemen were huddled in the caboose behind. But they found it out after a time, and slowed down just as the train got on to the bridge. As they came to a standstill, two or three other cars jumped the track; and one of these, an oil-car, with a long tank on it, broke its couplings and was shoved over on to the up-

sidewise across the rails. The accident made great confusion with the men on the freight; but they claimed that they got out their signallanterns as soon as they could, and for liquor .- Chicago Herald. that it was not a minute before we came

As we shot along past the dark station and out towards the bridge, I saw the white steam of the freight train. "We shall pass No. 19 right by the

bridge," Doc said. Both of us were looking, Doc on his side and I on mine. Suddenly, right ahead, we saw a red lantern swinging on our track, at the end of the bridge. "God save us, Doc!" I shouted, "the draw's open!"

"Spring the patent brake!" he said to me-that was what we called the air brake, then-and in a moment we had usually make firemen on duty rather shut off, reversed and whistled for the

But we were going at a great speed. who ride in the railroad cars behind us In a moment more we had come alongside the freight engine, and out on the bridge we saw the oil car right across any other class of men; and certainly our rails! It had a look of death in it.

"Shan't you jump, Doe?" I cried. He stood with his back to me, looking ahead, but turned when I called out. I never shall forget that last look he gave me. He did not speak, but his look seemed to say: "Yes, you may as well jump, but I must stick to my

He barely looked round to me, but made no answer, then looked ahead again. Then I jumped-went heels over head along the side of the emover and over, and landed down on the Press. ice of the creek near the abutment, familiar with a locomotive in eleven which I had scarce touched when I years. I thought that I knew every heard the crash as our engine struck the oil car.

With he collision came a sudden, brilliant flash of light! Everything above me, the whole bridge and the cars on it, seemed wrapped in a blaze most needed. To do this a man should of fire! At the same instant, too, there cost to France of her march to Berlin say came to me and said he saw in the our colleges is given in the know the road, every rod of it, as well was a dull, long, tearing crash! The almost exactly two millions a day, with night a steamer passing and heard New York Independent: Harvard

Down came our engine, the three tween oiling, shoveling in coal, shaking whole wreck, as it fell down, seemed a niece of Hon. Isaac l'arker. A few a good thing to see so much rejoicing." named after Lord Dartmouth, who subenveloped in flames; for the oil had years afterward she married a Co In like manner, to see a wedding is a scribed a large amount and was Presiof coal and water, he is kept busy, and ing coals from the fire-box exploded it named Quinah was the fruit. During is a sign of a birth, and if it is possible Brown University received its name

It is while firing that the practical the bottom of the deep water there: Her son remained with the tribe and is selves conscious of any analogy be-college very largely; Bowdoin College hence was called the vague year beknowledge of running an engine is and on top of it came tumbling down now their chief. - Chicago Herald. gained. A fireman is the groom, so to all the other cars. For a moment folspeak, of the "iron horse." He must, lowing the crash there was an almost morning or evening, have the engine complete silence; then agonizing da, N. Y., recently. He approached arbitrary law of association. It is nations to the college, polished, "fired up," and ready for his screams and prayerful cries for help Mr. Fonda, the ticket agent, with the clear, however, that their interpretascreams and prayerful cries for help

We who were not disabled did what we could. The seven rear cars did not run into the chasm, but two of them burned on the track, along with a num- Fonda without paying fare. He now to dream of seeing a nest of eggs is a He has named it "Faith," because faith generally exists an easy-going and ber of freight cars. Twenty-one of the manly sort of friendship, though I have passengers were killed outright, and a still greater number were injured.

heat, and awful confusion of that night, gone down with his engine.

The locomotive was not hauled up out of the water till the next week. him-was a superior engineer. He Then we found his body jammed down under the engine on the bed of the motive; just where it lay, and how creek. His hands, face and clothes had

Natural and Acquired Fertility. A soil which is naturally fertile is much more valuable to the farmer than one which is fertile only by the help of manure. The natural fertility of the soil, comparatively speaking, is a permanent quality, and can only be injured by the continuance of an exhaustive system of cropping for a long time. Acquired fertility is quite a different matter; it is due to the accumulation line was frosty and slippery. The ex- of manurial ingredients in the soil, which may be reduced or entirely withdrawn

by cropping in a short time. Continued cropping without manuring results in a reduction of the stock of available fertility in every soil. A soil, however, which is soon exhausted for one sort of crop may still contain an abundant food supply for a crop of another kind. Hence the wisdom of a rotation of crops which long defers the

The more available substances are. of course, the first to become exhausted: a poor soil will wear out sooner than a rich one; a shallow one becomes exhausted sooner than a deep one, and a light soil sooner than a stiff one.

All soils have more or less store of plant food in a dormant condition capable of gradual development. As cropping removes available plant-food from the soil it is replaced more or less rapidly by the agencies of the weather, the action of earth worms, etc. The processes of natural soil-renovation is greatly accelerated by artificial means, such as tillage, drainage and the application of manures. With a judicious We pulled out, and from the way system of rotation of crops and fertilizing, the active fertility in the soil may His last attempt was to win the prize be made to reproduce itself year after in the old machine to do it. I suppose year, instead of becoming exhausted, we made thirty-five miles an hour, peras is too often the case, after a long pe-

riod of mismanagement. On we went, reeling off the dark, bleak miles, with the sharp wind cuting into the cash till near New Here.

To do imismanagement.

Mr. Lawes, of Rothamsted, England, and he said, and he sharp wind cutgives to the public the results of an exing into the cash till near New Here.

To do imismanagement.

Mr. Lawes, of Rothamsted, England, and he said, and he said, and he specially appearance at the poorer people. This was introduced by this failure prostrated all his energies.

The dark, and the poorer people. This was introduced by the fashion was introduced by the bleak miles, with the sharp wind cutting into the cab, till near New Ham- periment extending through twelve burg station, where the line then crossed years. The two crops grown each year certainly not be open on such a night, cerned, and the seed used the same. for the creek was frozen up, and that The only difference was that in one case nature had been unassisted by manure, and in the other the soil each year received the fertilizers which were found to be most suitable to the crop. But we can only see what the head-light The result of the latter treatment was a return of three times the weight of grain an expenditure of manure which left a profit of 100 per cent. on its cost.-N.

> -A San Antonio (Tex.) man stole tain a situation which he has not yet some grave-stones for building pur-

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

-A lady in Oakland, Me., died re-Boston Transcript.

line of track-our line-where it stood

- The city of Atlanta, Ga., was first called Marthasville, after the daughter of Mr. Lumpkin, who donated five acres of ground at that point and so decided the terminus of the Atlantic & Western Railroad. The name was afterward changed by the Legislature. -One of the Arabs who have been

peddling in Laredo, Tex., was hauled up and fined twenty-five dollars for carrying a twelve-inch bowie-knife. The Bedouin paid the fine in gold, remarking to the Marshal: "That is all right, but you will have to settle with Heaven for this outrage.

-Public Printer Rounds and his foreman set all the type for the President's message, read all the proof and took the number of copies required in advance on a proof press. All this was done at the Soldiers' Home with the men from stealing the message. Mr. -Chicago Inter Ocean.

two of them perfect specimens of the enough the Laird we had died soon -A little boy went lately to school albino, while the others are ordinary after." Malcolm McLean, one of the for the first time, and on his return adis a boy, and the other a girl. The danger at one time of losing his place. declared vehemently that he should not latter's hair is as white as the driver He dreamt three dreams: That he was go again. He seemed full of real tersnow and kinky as that of the thorough- drowning and tangled in seaweed, but for, and his mother judiciously waived bred African. Notwithstanding her oif his hands reached a rock and he was the question until the soothing and conbankment leading to the bridge, rolled color she is very beautiful. -St. Paul saved; that he lost his stick but found fidential hour of bed-time, when she

of her wealthiest provinces.

baggage cars, a passenger car, and I made by the Comanches into Texas, grandfather's sister had died and her liams College was named after Colonel don't know how many freight cars of they seized and carried into captivity a body was on its way back to Islay. Ephraim Williams, a soldier of the old the other train, on to the ice. The young maiden named Cynthia Parker, "Well," said Sandy, "I knew it was not French War; Dartmouth College was splashed over everything, and the blaz- manche chief, and of this union a son sign of a funeral, and to see a funeral dent of the first Board of Trustees; We will begin with the eldest. When the engine struck the ice it Cynthia Parker and she returned to birth will be in the same family. uate of the college, went into business, tian year always consisted of 365 days made, - Our Little Ones. broke through, and with a hiss went to Texas much against her will and died. The people of Jura are not them- became very wealthy and endowed the and took no account of the fraction,

turned up in the Central depot at Fon- mind, belongs to the dream by a purely Elihu Yale, who made very liberal do-Mr. Fonda, the ticket agent, with the clear, however, that their interpretastatement that his name was John tions of dreams were nearly all origin-Nicholson, of Gray, Herkimer County, ally worked out by analogy, even though and added that a short time ago he had the analogy is frequently too vague to traveled on the cars from Hudson to be any longer easily defected. Thus, and asked: "What is the cost of a with somebouy. To see a vessel, espe- Hawkeye. ticket?" Mr. Fonda replied: "One dol- cially a steamer, sailing over land, is a promptly paid. - Buffalo Express.

# Dame Fortune.

Twenty-five years ago I was a guest in Cincinnati of one of the most extensive and prosperous pork-packers in the West, and that was when a boar's head was the accepted insignia of Cincinnati, and the appellation of "Porkopolis" more proudly boasted than the present effete title of "Paris of Ameriea." The gentleman had branch esmuch it was good for. He was one of been scorched: but whether he was tablishments in Louisville and other those men who seem to feel just what drowned or burned to death, we could cities, and the brand of his cured meat was of world-wide reputation. He had He had met death at his post of duty: just married in a neighboring villagegone out of the world with his hand on now a prosperous manufacturing citythe lever; giving his own life that the a young lady acknowledged to be the lives of others might be saved-a man handsomest woman in Onio, and who of whom any people may be proud .- disputed with Sallie Ward, the then famous Kentucky belle, the palm of loveliness when both were visitors in your city. I well remember the wedding, as it was a famous one. The eauty and popularity of the bride drew an immense concourse of people to the church. Fully a thousand persons who failed to gain admission blocked the street for a square, and on the approach of the bridal party, and on its exit from the church the bride was greeted with all the earnest manifestations which a devoted people would extend to a queen.

During his engagement the merchant had purchased beautiful grounds and built what was then considered the most elegant house in the city and furnished it without regard to expense. This was his wedding gift to his wife and was valued at \$100,000. For days previous to its occupancy a steady stream of visitors poured through the sumptuous rooms, and all were lavish in their praise. After returning from an extensive bridal tour, they settled in their luxurious home and entered into a season of gayety. Elegant parties were made for them and they entertained royally. But the great pork crash came-what year I do not remember-and carried down everybody engaged in the business, our merchant among the rest. He struggled long afterward in an embarrassed way for several years, his wife mortgaging her home to furnish him the limited means. but at last was unable to compete with the fresh blood and capital invested in the business, and he succombed entirely. Having some genius for mechanics he made a number of futile attempts in the direction of invention, wasting the offered by the State of New York for a motive power for a canal boat that would not wash the banks. His health wife and three children in the last degree of impoverishment. The son, now a young man, had steady employment for awhile, but through a protracted spell of sickness, lost it. The eldest daughter has destroyed her health in running one of the presses in the Treasury Department, and the mother, whose with her invalid children, her own gles out of a year of sorrow into one

without hope.

The incidents related came to me freshly a few days since on receiving a request from the son to aid him to obbeen able to secure .-- Cincinnati News-

### Dreams and Their Interpretation.

Everybody in Jura believes in cently from the effects of eating cloves, dreams. "There was dreams," said which her physician stated had entirely an old man to me one day, "from destroyed the coating of her stomach .- | the beginning of the world, and there will be dreams till the end of it." -Collector Robertson, of New York, When I hinted that there were dreams recently received an envelope contain- enough, but very little meaning to ing seventy dollars, which, the sender them, he asked: "Have you no mind said, was the duty on some wearing of Pharaoh and his dream about the apparel that had been smuggled into seven fat cattle and the seven lean this port a long time ago. -N. Y. Times. ones? There is dreams, of course, that -A New York reporter has discovered has no meaning, but there is plenty of that the broken food, of which the meaning to dreams when you look into street beggars sometimes collect great them right." It is a significant proof of basketfuls, is given to the low saloons this faith in dreams that nobody in Jura for the free lunch tables in exchange ever speaks of what they have "dreamed," but solely of what they "saw in the night." They speak of dreams as though they believed men to be endowed during sleep with a higher faculty of vision than was ever possessed by them in their waking hours. "Do you think I would be telling everything I did see in the night?" an-To dream on Sunday night means that, News. the dream have any meaning at all,

purpose of preventing the newspaper He spoke of this dream at the time their receipts year after year shows the and a few days later the news of his increase of the true missionary spirit Rounds hadn't set type since he was a losses by the bank's failure arrived. A in the church. For the last four years boy, but he did the job like a veteran. Jura woman dreamt that she saw two the receipts have been \$2,626,170.94, moons in the sky at the same time. "I the net increase year by year amount--A Swedish couple who live near was told," said she, "that this meant ing to a total of \$199,610.60.-N. Y. Sioux Falls, D. T., have four children, that a new Laird was coming, and sure Times. fair-haired children. One of the albinos | watchmen of the Laird's deer, was in mitted that he had enjoyed himself, but a new one of oak; that a number of extracted the explanation. It came -It may be interesting to note, as an eats had seized hold of his hand by out that the teacher had informed him instance of the costliness of modern tooth and claw, but he shook them off that he proposed to "put an idea into war, that the total ascertained expend- and on looking at his hand saw not his head" the next morning. The word iture of France upon the war on which even a scratch. "From all this," said "idea" was one he had never before she entered with a light heart in Au- Malcolm, "I took courage, for I knew heard, and he probably fancied it to be gust, 1870, is now declared to be £341.- I would come out all right in the end, some new and formidable kind of edge 440,000. As the war began in August and so I did." Other dreams go by lool-as indeed it is. - Detroit Post. and ended in January, this makes the contraries. One morning Sandy Linddeck, and he asked me what it meant. who, in 1638, left to the college £779 -Nearly forty years ago, on a raid About a week later word came that his and a library of over 300 books; Wilthe war General Sul Ross recaptured to make out whose funeral it is, the from Nicholas Brown, who was a grad-esting about it, except that the Egyp-

> you will lose your sweetheart. To see "Communion of soles," said she. a house with no roof on it is a sign of \_\_Mother (to a five-year-old, who has was once told by a man in Colonsay Chicago Tribune. that he saw Neil leaving the byre and receiving a cow from the master he was ing on the stove-pipe the other day, and then serving. "There was nobody of marrying, but four years later, when winter soot," he replied, gravely. was working at the same place, I took a wife away with me from that very house." To see a man drunk is a sign that he will be afflicted either with A. Waesler, in San Francisco Examiner.

# The Willing Witness.

Witnesses in court often complain that counsel will not let them answer questions in their own way. The following reply, in the exact words used Press. by a witness on the stand in court vesterday, will show that he had no such vises the girls not to chew gum, but to ties, and if so, where?" Witness- - Buffalo Express. potatoes, and my daughter came down that to have an appetite proportional to where I was at work and said there that of a robin a man would have to dewere coming. Just then I heard a raid in fact. - Boston Courier. long. I went up to the house and they is a beautiful idea. By another evolureceived him with the common courte- of thought .- Chicago Inter Ocean. sies, and a few words passed between us, as there naturally would be, and State Street this morning with a threehad not seen her since her first husband died; but as I had promised to go back into the field in a short time I did not tarry there long." [Here the witness paused and looked at the counsel as though he considered the question answered.] "Well, did you marry them?" Witness—"Yes." — Bangor (Me.) Commercial.

-A verdant-looking person was observed standing around the steps of the Parker House, Boston, for a long time recently, and finally one of the coachand asked him if he wanted anything. Transcript.

money for wars actual and possible as Friday, at our house. One day I was glad to find it out." glorious beauty and noble qualities en-tranced all eyes and won all hearts, fifteen times as much, and Russia eighty chapel choir had been taken ill and so bel—the subject seems to be exhausttimes as much. Even this country, I went for Christine and induced her to ed." frame racked with rheumatism, strug- where the army is upon a footing of the take her place, and while we walked "I did not go to books at all, for I speaking of one of the latest crases least possible proportion, and the navy along the Champs Elysee I taught her knew all the rest were cribbing from among women, says "the pet cat now is scarcely worthy of the name, much the English words of the hymn she was them—and I wonder Ulie did not tell us wears a collar of tiny silver bells just

Company uses five tons of passengers' once made a three years' engagement ants and their way of keeping the day, cost twenty-one dollars each to make.—
tickets annually.—Albany Journal. with her.—Cor. N. Y. World. which I thought would interest you. N. Y. Herald. tickets annually .- Albany Journal.

#### SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

-The missionaries of India insist that when a native woman is converted to Christianity the native garb is not suffivient for her clothing.

-The largest observatory dome in the world is now being made in Clevewill weigh ten tons and measure fortyive feet four inches at the base .-Cleveland Leader.

-A "soap bubble" competition is the latest method of raising money at church fairs. Ten cents is the entrance fee, and the person making the most bubbles in five minutes gets the prize. Its beauty of sunshine and rain and shade? -Chicago Tribune. -The Harvard University services

on Sunday are now held in the evening. and ministers of different denominations preach. The daily morning prayers are limited to twelve minutes for the whole service. - Boston Post. -Chicago has a novelty in the way

swered a man indignantly when some. of a Gospel ship, called the Glad Tidbody pressed him to tell what he had ings. It is in command of Captain been dreaming about. It would make a Burby, his wife, son and two daughlong catalogue to attempt to tell all the ters. It makes trips through the Northmeanings the people of Jura ascribe to ern lakes, and religious services are dreams, but I will give a few examples. conducted by the family .- Chicago -The General Missionary Committee

there will be proof of its meaning be- of the Methodist Episcopal Church refore Monday is passed. The interpredently held its annual session in New tation of most dreams goes by analogy. York City. The treasurer acknowl-Before the failure of the Western Bank edged receipts for the year ending Ocof Glasgow in 1857 the late Laird of tober 31 amounting to \$751,469.90, an Jura is said to have dreamt he increase over the preceding year of was bitten in the leg by a dog. \$59,813.89. The successive increase of

-The following information about -A man of extraordinary honesty they give them. The meaning, in their Maine; Yale College was named after wandered over all the seasons.

### PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

-A Burlington boy sent for a fifty cent watch and received a sun-dial. wanted to square up with the company, sign of being about to have a quarrel without works is dead. - Burlington

-A lady and gentleman accidentally As we worked there in the noise, lar and fifty-four cents," which was sign of death. To dream that you have touched each other's feet under the lost the sole of your boot means that table. "Secret telegraphy," said he.

death. To dream you get a cow from sat very still for five minutes) - "What anybody is a sign you will get a wife are you thinking of. Georgie?" from the same place. Neil Darroch Georgie-"O! bout old times, I dess .--Mrs. French heard a terrible pound-

called to her husband to know what was then," said Neil, "that I was thinking the matter. "I'm only getting out my - "Overcoats are worn long," re-

marks a fashionable oracle. Then editors are in the style, for they can wear the same overcoat as long as four years. iliness or with mental trouble. -Alfrea and sometimes longer. -Oil City Der-

-An editor of a paper in a Pennsylvania town has resigned his position and gone to peddling fish. He can now blow his own horn without having to ask leave of anybody. -Burlington Free

cause for complaint: Counsel-"Now, have a little gumshun about them, the Elder, state whether you performed the art of punning reaches a point where it Jonson, in one of his books, introduces how frank you are, there is one thing marriage ceremony between these par | becomes useful as well as ornamental. "Well, I was down in my field digging -An ornithologist has discovered

was a gentlemen and lady at the house vour daily a string of sausages sixtywho wanted to see me. We had some seven feet long and nine inches in diaword somehow or other that they eter. Make a "bob-o'-link" of himself.

of cattle that come on to me, and I told -John Burroughs calls Herbert the girl she must stay there until I Spencer "the intellectual clearing come back and that I would not be house" of the nineteenth century. It were there. Melinda, as he called her, tion, he might be called the mind's introduced Mr. Hutchins to me, and I produce exchange, or the bench-show

-The man who was observed on then he took his certificate out of his cent stamp on his left ear, endeavoring pocket and told me his business. As I to climb into a letter-box and elamorwas in a hurry and wished to get back ing for them to fesh on their poshas soon as I could, we had but little offices cosh he wash so drunk he conversation. I talked with the wo- couldn't go to them, is believed to hold man, as I was acquainted with her, but the theory that the office should seek the man and not the man the office. -Chicago Tribune.

> -It will be pretty hard to convince some persons that the world is growing works upon antiquities and seem fabu- cisco Examiner. better when they are informed that the dolls brought out this year sing: "Wait till the Clouds Roll by, Jennie." A Western mob of masked men are now on their way East, looking for the inventor of this doll. They want to reason with him before he invents a doll that will cry for paregorie at midnight. -Norristown Herald.

per down ter hum abaout the 'politikle number of fine singers in the choir at of giving on New Year day a sum of His hearers are doubtless wondering hacks' you had up here ter Boston, an that time, Mrs. Riggs being among money to buy this new luxury with, where the banana-peel comes in. -N. Y. I was kinder lookin' areound to see it them. This was while we were fiving Hence it was called 'pin-money,' and Tribune. I couldn't see some on e'm."-Bostos in Paris during the year of '61 and '62, the expression was afterward used to —England spends six times as much days, which lasted from Monday till dered where this expression arose, and laughing as a profession. He will

### For Young Readers.

THE LESSONS OF THE YEAR.

You are larger now than a year ago, And the stories and the lessons they, too, must And come to your minds with a fresh, new land for the University of Virginia. It on the unlearned page of this old, old book. But have you, my dears, learned everything

The brave old year in its arms could bring?
Oh, all the lessons the school-books brought,
Perhaps — but the other ones? Have you

That never a blossom looks up but tells Some story of how its sweet heart swells With a grateful love to Him who made

That never a butterfly sips, or a bee, The nectar too little for us to see, But out of the picture a lesson goes Of Him who made clover and bee and rose?

That never a ripened apple falls. Nor a grape vine purples on duil old walls, Nor a nut comes rustling through the leaves, Nor a wain goes laden with harvest sheaves, But in each and all bright eves may find How wise and changeless and Heavenly kind Is He who fashions the endless store

Which blesses the New Year more and more? And not alone while the warm skies glow Are written the lessons for us to know, But the snow and the ice have a truthful word Of Him whom we worship and call the Lord.

They hide the roots of the honey flowers, And the trees whose fruits fall thick as showers, And in all the earth and air and sea,

# There are stories and lessons for you and me. -Christian Leader.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY.

"Has New Year's Day always been the same?" asked Mabel Montgomery of her father, who was an editor, and supposed to know everything.

a question, though very natural, was dismissed for the present, with: "Instead of answering you at length, I propose that we lay the subject on the table till New Year's night, and then the one who can tell me the most interesting facts about it shall have a

The Montgomerys were going to re-

ceive, and amid the preparations such

handsome reward." "And who will be judges?" asked all the family at once, James and Edward, Nettie, Ulie and Mabel.

"I'll allow you to select your own judges from among the callers of the evening, for I shall be home early. You know there are always a few who spend the even ng with me."

New Year morning dawned bright and cold. Sleigh-bells were heard before the family were stirring, and, notwithstanding visions of future skating and coasting, every one of the Montgomerys thought first of their father's trestle had given way beneath the out counting the permanent loss of two music and saw great dancing on the College was named after John Harvard. promise, and then began to dress for the day. The hours passed quickly till evening, and at eight o'clock the children ushered into the library Judge Van Vorst, Mr. Ludlow and Solomon Smith, whom they announced to be

"And what can you tell me James?"

"I did not find anything very intertween their dreams and the meaning was named after Governor Bowdoin, of cause in the course of 1,460 years, it "Very good. And you, Edward?"

other looking forward to the new."

"Well done. Now, girls."

year arose, meaning that they might fashion you want to put on airs." -When a wild Western Jeditor adembroidered with Venetian silver, and utterance." rayed with silver and black silk, and re- Wealth is one of the things that everceived three gilt silver bowls, weighing eises the most harmful influence or 132 ounces. During the reign of Queen frankness. No matter where you go, if Elizabeth, the custom of presenting you have money, the greatest defer-New Year gifts was carried to a most ence is paid you; no matter whether extravagant height. Her wardrobe you be bright or stupid, good or bad, and jewelry were mostly supplied by your money is your password, and it this means. The Earl of Leicester's opens almost every door to you. 1 gifts exceeded in beauty and value all think it is chiefly owing to this that honothers. Some of these are described in esty is degenerating. - Cor. Sun Fran-

men who congregate there approached Christine Nilsson's First Aspearances of box-wood, bone and silver, even women without number. Dancing was 'ere kerridges. I read a lot in the pa- American Chapel in Paris? We had a ury, and the fashion was introduced phasis that he was repeatedly applauded. and when Christine was a young school represent the money settled on a wife

more is spent upon them than upon the to sin. This was some two years be-public schools.—N. Y. Herald. to sin. This was some two years be-public schools.—N. Y. Herald. like milady's pug.'

She said when she was a bride, she came for the first time among these descendants of the old Hollanders, and was surprised to see the extensive preparations made to celebrate New Year's day. Every one was making cake of all kinds, and particularly the kind they called New Year's cake. This was made of butter, eggs and sugar, with caraway seeds stirred in and after rolling it very thin, it was cut out by a stamp into the size required. The richer the family, the larger the cake. When the day came, instead of dressing to receive calls, she was told to bundle herself for a sleigh-ride, and giving her a basket to hang upon her arm, she was led to a large sleigh at the door, wherein was a dozen others. gentlemen and ladies, all equipped like herself with baskets. They went from house to house through the entire valley, wishing a 'Happy New Year,' and receiving hot drinks and refreshments and best of all, one of these fancy New Year's cakes which were to be taken home and kept as long as desired. She said every basket was full when they went home."

"It takes me back to my boyhood to hear this-for I always spent the day thus. Good old times they were, too Now for the decision-how is it, gentlemen?"

"We propose to leave it to the readers of your paper," said Judge Van Vorst, and we'll see what they say. So it was left, to be decided after all, by those who read the story.-Margaret B. \* Peeke, in Chicago Advance.

#### The Music of Insects.

The katydid has a wing that is very curious to look at. You have seen this little insect, I have no doubt. Its color is light green, and just where the wing joins the body there is a thick ridge, and another on the wing. On this ridge there is a thin and strong skin, which makes a sort of drumhead.

It is the rubbing of these two ridges or drumbeads that make the queer noise you have heard. There is no music in it, surely. The insects could keep quiet as well as not, and they must enjoy doing it.

The katydid usually makes three rubs with its drumbeads, sometimes only two. You can fancy she says "Katy did," and "She did," or "She didn't." The moment it is dusk they begin. Soon the whole company are at work. As they rest after each rubbing, it seems as if they answered each other.

der wings? It is not the stir of those beautiful light wings we hear. It is the air drawing in and out of the air-tubes, in the bee's quick flight. The faster a bee flies the louder the humming is. Don't von believe insects feel? In-

Did you know that bees hum from un-

deed they do! They have nerves all over them, even through their wings, and out to the end of every feeler. They suffer just as much as you do when hurt. You must remember this, and be kind to all the little insects God has

Some people are composed of two selves, which they as easily put on or "I learned that the civil year of old shift off as you or I would a coat. As England began on the 25th of March, for example, I know a person of a most and in referring to old books it is neces-gracious, frank and amusing character, sary to keep this in mind. In 1751 an a person with whom I have been intiact of Parl ament altered the beginning mate for years, and whom I thought 1 of the year to January 1. It seems knew and understood perfectly. Hapvery proper that this should begin the pening one day to be present while she year, as the days of the former year was entertaining company, I was astonhave grown shorter and shorter, until ished to find her entirely changed. The now they begin to lengthen as if a new smile that habitually played over her life were beginning. Janus, the Roman countenance was repressed, and an air deity from whom this month is named, of most profound importance pervaded is represented as a man with two faces, her whole countenance. Her manners one looking back toward the old, the were constrained, and every word she uttered seemed to have been weighed at least seven or eight times. The conver-Nettie came first, a modest little sation lagged, or was rather one-sided, blonde, who never ventured to vie with for she agreed with every one and every the more brilliant Ulie, though two one seemed to agree with her. I was greatly amused, and when the guests "I found but little about the origin had departed I could not help having a of the day, or why it had been placed bugh at her expense and joking her in the cold months of winter, instead of about her other self. "For, really," with the beginning of life in the spring said, "you are a hundred degrees more time, when everything renewsits youth, charming and agreeable when you talk but I did learn some interesting facts and act in your natural way." She about the customs of the day, that I will stared af me in wonder, and said: "! repeat. Verstegan, in a curious book really did not think you were so green antiquities, says that our ancestors as that. For you know that, as char ty called this month. 'Wolf-monat,' or covers a multitude of sins before God, welf-month, because people were in so does politeness before man." "Podanger of being devoured by wolves. It liteness." I said: "do you call that pomay have been due to this that the cus- liteness?" But she silenced me with a tem of wishing one's friend's a happy laugh, saying: "If you want to be in

escape such a fate. Gifts might easily | Now, I don't mean to say that if you have followed, on the same principle, meet a person with a crooked nose it is The Latin writers, Tacitus and Sucton- necessary to fling the fact at his or her ius, both mention the custom. Ben head. For, above all things, no matter New Year's Gift, in a blue cost, serving, you must sacrifice to your frankness, man-like, with an orange and a sprig of and that is personal feeling. In every rosemary on his head, his nat full of house there is a skeleton in the cupbrooches, with a collar of gingerbread, board, and in some houses more than his torch-bearer carrying a march-pane, one. It will not always do to say what with a bottle of wine on either arm. you think, but you should always think The custom of presenting New Year's what you say. If you do not, then gifts to the sovereigns of England was keep silent. Silence is golden. I can in vogue in the time of Henry VI. not forbear to quote right here what Some of these gifts were very odd. The Carlyle says in reference to silence: Lord Cardinal Pole gave a salute with a "Were a man ordered, for a length of cover of silver and gilt, having a stone time, but to hold his peace, it were in therein enameled with the story of Job, most cases an incalculable benefit to his and received a pair of gilt silver pots, insight. Thought works in silence; so weighing 1437 ounces. The Queen's does virtue, What folly would one sister gave the fore part of a kirtle, with avoid did the tongue be quiet till the a pair of sleeves of cloth of silver, richly mind had finished and was calling for

"Surely you have read to some pur- - Rev. John Jones, a Methodist minpose, my daughter," said Mr. Montgom- ister of Harlem, lectured in New York ery, smiling, "and in your choice of matter show the peculiarities of your sex. Sidewalk." He said there were three kinds—laziness, which had wrecked "I found out the origin of the term | many homes and been the orange-peel or 'pin-money,' which I thought very in- the sidewalk to many happy lives. Ther teresting. Pins were not as common flirtation was an orange-peel of potency. nor cheap as at present, and were made on which slipped up young men and

> -There is a young Indian in Winnilaugh five minutes for five cents, and it is well worth it .- Chicago Times.

-The New York Mail and Express,

The Boston & Albany Railrose the "Magic Flute" that the manager at me about the Mehawk Valley inhabit- York swell dinner were of silver, and